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14 May 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

State Dept. review completed

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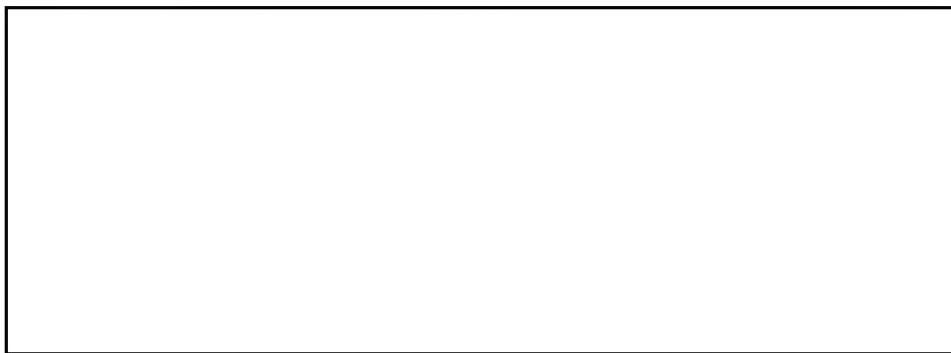
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United Kingdom: [The Labor government faces a serious challenge if the Liberals stand firm in their support of the Conservative opposition to the new budget proposals.]

[Detailed debate on the budget will begin on Monday. The government, with only a three-vote margin in Parliament, has been subjected to repeated assaults from the combined opposition on major legislation during the past week. The small Liberal Party, which had generally supported the government, has now shifted to outright opposition and alignment with the Tories on the budget issues.]

[This precarious situation will require constant availability of Labor members of Parliament to guard against snap defeats. Labor is handicapped in sustaining a full muster by the serious illness of at least five of its members.]

[Labor's intraparty squabbling over steel nationalization, as well as indications in local elections and public opinion polls that the gap between the two principal parties has at least temporarily narrowed, will probably encourage the Conservatives to continue their attacks against Wilson at this time. Despite its aggressive stance in Parliament, however, the Conservative Party is still in need of time to strengthen itself and probably would not welcome a test of strength at the polls at this time. The government is similarly not inclined to rush to the polls while major pieces of its legislative program are still in the drafting stage.]

[Exhaustive consideration of the new budget proposals is expected to last till late June. The US Embassy in London believes that the government could sustain individual reverses on lesser items in the budget but would probably be forced to a general election if it were defeated on major provisions.]

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NOTES

Venezuela: [The Communist Party has decided to return to a policy of building up its potential for urban terrorism,]

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25X1 [The Communists' urban terrorist organization was hard hit by government security forces last fall. Since then they have concentrated on strengthening rural activities. The success of recent terrorist attacks on US installations protesting US actions in the Dominican Republic has shown, however, that the Communists still retain an urban capability. This success may also be a factor encouraging a further build-up.]

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East Germany - Berlin: After a lull of almost two months, presumably because of unfavorable weather, the East Germans have resumed work on a series of large ditches along the sector and zonal borders around West Berlin. A US helicopter flight along the borders on 12 May disclosed excavation by dragline of a ditch approximately 300 feet long north of the Heerstrasse crossing point in the British Sector. The new ditch probably will be linked to two similar excavations south of the crossing point as part of a long-range "modernization" of the borders reportedly scheduled for completion by 1970.

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